

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AF-06 DLOS-03

EB-07 COME-00 OFA-01 NEA-09 AGR-05 /104 W

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P R 241500Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8451

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0650

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FI, SW, NO, DE, IC

SUBJECT: NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE AT
HELSINKI MEETING

1. DURING THEIR TWO-DAY MEETING IN HELSINKI MARCH 20-21
THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF DENMARK, FINLAND, ICELAND,
NORWAY AND SWEDEN WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS TO "ACCENTUATE
THE POSITIVE" IN NORDIC COOPERATION. THEY PURPOSELY AND
ASSIDUOUSLY STAYED AWAY FROM SUCH TOPICS AS PROBLEMS IN
NORDIC RELATIONS, SWEDISH OR FINNISH NEUTRALITY, VIGGEN
AFFAIR, OR KEKKONEN'S NFZ PROPOSAL--ALL OF WHICH HAVE
CAUSED CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC CONTROVERSY RECENTLY IN
NORDIC COUNTRIES. CONCLUDING PRESS CONFERENCE
WAS SYMPTOMATIC OF THIS APPROACH BY EMPHASIZING MORE
WHAT WAS NOT DISCUSSED THAN WHAT WAS. AT LEAST FINNISH
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PRESS HAS TAKEN HINT THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS WANTED

MEETING LOOKED UPON AS REGULAR PERIODIC SESSION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION, AND IS NOT ATTRIBUTING MUCH SIGNIFICANCE TO MEETING.

2. FOREIGN MINISTERS LARGELY CONCENTRATED ON UN MATTERS AND EMPHASIZED UN ANGLE OF MANY OTHER ISSUES. THIS IS SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL, SINCE NORMALLY AUTUMN MEETINGS FOCUS ON UN QUESTIONS ON EVE OF UNGA OPENING. PRESENT MEETING CAN PERHAPS BE VIEWED AS PREPARATORY SESSION FOR SPECIAL UNGA ON QUESTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION THIS FALL--WITH INTERNATIONAL ODDS AND ENDS OF CURRENT OR CONTINUING INTEREST THROWN IN FOR GOOD MEASURE.

3. MINISTERS APPARENTLY SPENT GREAT DEAL OF TIME ON PLANNING DIVISION OF SPOILS TO COME; I.E., WHICH NORDIC SHOULD BE SUPPORTED FOR WHAT UN POST OR COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP. ONE PURPOSE OF THIS WAS UNDOUBTEDLY ATTEMPT TO BRING ABOUT A RETURN TO TRADITIONAL CLOSE NORDIC COORDINATION OF UN MATTERS AND VOTES--A TRADITION LARGELY FORGOTTEN IN 1974.

4. WE FIND FINAL COMMUNIQUE PRIMARILY OF INTEREST FOR WHAT FINNS FELT CONSTRAINED TO ACCEPT. MANY COMMUNIQUE FORMULATIONS WERE NOTICEABLY MORE BALANCED THAN THOSE IN RECENT FINNISH JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, "BLOC" COUNTRIES IN PARTICULAR. ALONG WITH EXPECTED SUPPORT FOR NAMIBIA, LOS, AND LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE AMONG UN MATTERS, COMMUNIQUE FOCUSSED ON UNIVERSALITY PRINCIPLE AND DC-LDC ISSUES. INISTERS EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF BASING ACTIVITY OF UN AND FUNCTIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY. WE READ THIS AS PRETAINING PRIMARILY TO SOUTH AFRICA, ISRAEL, AND PRG, BUT HOPE SOON TO BE ABLE CONFIRM THIS AND PROVIDE MORE DETAILS. ON DC-LDC QUESTION, COMMUNIQUE IN TORTURED WAY ADDRESSES "TYRANNY OF MAJORITY" AND CALLS ON ALL UN MEMBERS TO SEEK COMPROMISES ACCEPTABLE TO MAXIMUM NUMBER OF COUNTRIES. IT IS IN THIS AREA WHERE NORDICS "PLEDGE" THEMSELVES TO SEEK RENEWED COORDINATION. THEY MAY ALSO SEE HERE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACT AS HONEST
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BROKERS, BASED ON THEIR CALL FOR PROGRESS IN COOPERATION WITH BOTH DCS AND LDCS.

5. ON CYPRUS AND ME, UN ANGLE IS PLAYED UP. WORDING ON ME IS MUCH MORE POSITIVE THAN RECENT FINNISH ONES, CALLING FOR "SOLUTION TO BE BASED ON PRINCIPLES THAT TERRITORIES MAY NOT BE ACQUIRED BY FORCE, ALL STATES HAVE RIGHT TO LIVE IN PEACE

WITHIN SAFE AND RECOGNIZED BORDERS, AND RESPECT OF
LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS".

6. ON VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA MINISTERS ENTREAT ALL
PARTIES TO STOP WAR AND FIND POLITICAL SOLUTION, AND
PLEDGE THEIR SUPPORT TO RECONSTRUCTION.

7. FINNS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL IN SELLING OTHER
NORDICS ON UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT FOR CSCE STAGE III
SUMMIT IN JULY, AND HAD TO SETTLE FOR "MINISTERS
AGREED THAT PROGRESS TO DATE JUSTIFIES AN EXPECTATION
THAT THROUGH MUTUAL GOODWILL SATISFACTORY SOLUTIONS CAN
ALSO BE FOUND FOR REMAINING QUESTIONS SO THAT STAGE III
CAN TAKE PLACE ON HIGHEST LEVEL DURING NEXT FEW MONTHS".
THIS WAS FURTHER WATERED DOWN BY EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT
FOR MBFR, SALT, NPT.

8. ALTHOUGH MENTION OF PORTUGAL IS LIMITED TO ONE
COMMUNIQUE SENTENCE IN WHICH "MINISTERS EXPRESSED THEIR
SUPPORT FOR FORCES THAT STRIVE FOR DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL
JUSTICE IN PORTUGAL", WE ARE TOLD THAT PROBLEM OF
PORTUGAL WAS VERY MUCH IN MINDS OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
PARTICULARLY SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ONES FROM DENMARK,
NORWAY , AND SWEDEN. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE AT THIS
POINT THAT DISCUSSION RESULTED IN ANY JOINT ACTION
PLAN, BUT IT IS EXPECTED THAT AT LEAST SOME OF
PARTICIPANTS WILL TRY TO BOTH INCREASE AND COORDINATE
THEIR SUPPORT OF SOARES.

9. COMMENT: RECENT FLURRY OF CONTROVERSIAL ARTICLES
AND SPEECHES ON PROBLEMS IN NORDIC RELATIONS MAY HAVE
BEEN MAIN REASON FOR MINISTERS DECIDING TO "DEFUSE"
ISSUE BY STICKING TO MORE TRADITIONAL AND LESS
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CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS AT THIS MEETING. EMPHASIS ON
UN MATTERS MAY ALSO REFLECT GENUINE CONCERN AMONG
NORDICS FOR RECENT TRENDS WITHIN UN AND RELATED ORGAN-
IZATIONS WHICH, IF ALLOWED TO CONTINUE UNCHECKED, COULD
IN TIME SERIOUSLY REDUCE IMPORTANCE OF ROLE THAT
NORDICS HAVE CAST FOR THEMSELVES ON INTERNATIONAL
SCENE.
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